

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 20, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 6 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed November 20, 2003, the abstract is objected to as including more than one paragraph. A new abstract is presented in an abstract attached hereto on a separate page.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,594,471 (Deeran).

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Deeran in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,492,978 (Selig).

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Deeran in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,846 (Rosenberg).

Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Deeran in view of U.S. Patent Publication Application No. 2002/0118175 (Liebenow).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to an electronic device having an alphanumeric keyboard and a method for presenting the alphanumeric keyboard on the electronic device. According to the invention, the alphanumeric keyboard is divided between a touchscreen TS and touch-sensitive cover HS of the electronic device, wherein a first part of the keyboard is presented on the touchscreen TS and a second part of

the keyboard is placed on the touch-sensitive cover HS (see Fig. 1 and page 5, line 34 to page 6, line 3 of the present application). The first and second parts are presented without significant borders therebetween (see page 8, lines 9-12) so that the user is presented, in effect, with a single, continuous, unitary keyboard.

The touchscreen TS electronically displays the first part electronically (see page 7, lines 3-12). The layout of the keys presented on the touchscreen TS may be selectively changed to present numbers or special characters (page 6 lines 6, lines 8-14). The touch sensitive cover HS surrounds the touchscreen TS (page 5, lines 24-26). The second part of the keyboard may be painted on the touch-sensitive cover. The presentation of the alphanumeric keyboard as two parts on the touchscreen and the touch-sensitive cover allows the keyboard size to be sufficient for easy inputting of alphanumeric characters (page 4, lines 8-12).

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to emphasize that the touch-sensitive cover surrounds a touch screen area, that the touch screen electronically displays the first part of the alphanumeric keyboard, and that the alphanumeric keyboard is presented with no significant borders between the first and second parts of the keyboard.

Deeran discloses an industrial touchscreen with a programmable interface. According to Deeran, a display touch zone of a touchscreen overlays the display screen (see col. 1, lines 30-40 of Deeran). More specifically, the touchscreen 12 disclosed by Deeran includes a display touch zone 14 and a border touch zone 18 (col. 3, lines 27-32). That is, the border touch zone 18 is part of the touchscreen 12 (Fig. 1). Deeran fails to disclose a touch-sensitive cover surrounding the touchscreen 12. The Examiner states that the touchscreen is reference character 14 (see page 3, line 2 of the office action). However, the touchscreen is actually identified in the reference by reference character 12, which includes both the touch zone 14 and the border touch

zone 18 as described above. Since Deeran fails to disclose a touch-sensitive cover surrounding the touchscreen, as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 6, Deeran fails to anticipate claims 1 and 6.

Deeran also fails to render claims 1 and/or 6 obvious. Deeran discloses an industrial monitor and does not have the same space restrictions present on handheld devices. There is no need in Deeran for making the keyboard bigger than the touchscreen, and there is therefore no motivation for modifying its teachings to provide the advantageous structure and functionality of the present invention. Accordingly, Deeran fails to teach or suggest placing a part of the keyboard on a touch-sensitive cover surrounding the touchscreen, as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

Selig discloses a keypad 14 placed over a portion of a touchscreen 16 (see col. 3, lines 13-19; and Figs. 1 and 3). The keypad 14 provides tactile feedback for the user entering information (col. 4, lines 25-34). Since the keypad is placed over the touchscreen, Selig also fails to teach or suggest placing a part of the keyboard on a touch-sensitive cover surrounding the touchscreen, as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

Rosenberg discloses haptic feedback for touchpads and other touch controls. However, Rosenberg fails to disclose, teach or suggest that an alphanumeric keyboard can be presented with a first part electronically displayed on a touchscreen portion and a second part placed on a touch-sensitive cover, as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

Liebenow discloses a touchscreen 118 with mechanical keys arranged on a frame surrounding the touchscreen. However, the mechanical keys arranged on the frame surrounding the touchscreen are not presented so that there is no significant border between the part of the keyboard arranged on the touchscreen and the mechanical keys, as is recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

Rather, Liebenow specifically separates the keys on the touchscreen from the mechanical keys on the frame to allow the thumbs of a user to operate the mechanical keys while the keys displayed on display 116 are operated by the user's other fingers from a back side of the device (see para. [0030] of Liebenow). Accordingly, Liebenow fails to teach or suggest that the alphanumeric keyboard is presented as a single keyboard without significant borders between the first and second parts, as recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 6 are allowable over Deeran, Selig, Rosenberg, and Liebenow, taken individually or in combination.

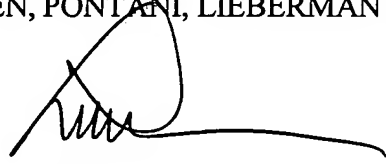
Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12, each being dependent on independent claim 1 or 6, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 6.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any such fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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